

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 IO-13 /071 W

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P R 020833Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8654

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL TWELFTH SESSION

REF: (A) SEOUL 5884, (B) SEOUL 5741

BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER TWO HOUR SESSION JUDGE DECLARED  
EXAMINATION OF DEFENDANTS CLOSED AND CALLED FOR PROSECUTION AND  
DEFENSE SUMMARIES TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 3. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS MADE  
NO EXTRAORDINARY MOVES DURING SESSION AND WIVES OF DEFENDANTS  
DID NOT (RPT NOT) DEMONSTRATE AT COURTHOUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 31 MYONGDONG TRIAL SESSION DID NOT PRODUCE  
ANTICIPATED DEFENSE FIREWORKS. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS DID NOT  
PROTEST COURT'S ALLEGED BIAS OR THREATEN WALKOUT AS THEY HAD  
REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO DO BY DEFENDANTS (SEE SEOUL 5884).  
WIVES OF DEFENDANTS MET FOR PRAYER MEETING AT CHRISTIAN  
BUILDING AND DID NOT APPEAR AT COURTHOUSE.

2. COURT HEARD FOUR PROSECUTION WITNESSES TO SUPPORT WRITTEN  
RECORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY IN PROSECUTOR'S REPORT OF  
INVESTIGATION WHICH HAD BEEN QUESTIONED BY DDDENSE AT ELEVENTH  
SESSION (SEE SEOUL 5741). DEFENSE REQUESTED ONCE AGAIN THAT POET  
KIM CHI-HA BE CALLED AT WITNESS. DEFENSE ASKED FOR DATA

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FROM WIDE RANGE OF ROKG AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH PATTERN OF

REPRESSION OF STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, CHURCHMEN AND JOURNALISTS  
SINCE ADOPTION OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. DEFENSE SUBMITTED  
NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS TO COURT INCLUDING UNIVERSAL DECLARATION  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ARTICLES FROM PRESS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES  
ON POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN KOREA.

3. JUDGE CALLED FOR RECESS AT NOON. AFTER RECESS JUDGE RULED  
THAT EXAMINATION PERIOD OF TRIAL WAS CONCLUDED. HE CALLED FOR  
PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE SUMMARIES TO BEGIN TUESDAY, AUGUST 3.  
SUMMARIES ARE USUALLY FOLLOWED BY CONCLUDING PERSONAL STATEMENTS  
BY DEFENDANTS.

4. STILL NOT CLEAR HOW LONG TRIAL WILL BE DRAWN OUT.  
DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION SUMMARIES LIKELY TO BE DETAILED IN VIEW  
IMPORTANCE OF TRIAL AND STATEMENTS BY EIGHTEEN DEFENDANTS  
MAY ALSO BE TIME CONSUMING. NEVERTHELESS, COURT CAN CALL SESSIONS  
MORE FREQUENTLY THAN DURING EXAMINATION STAGE OF TRIAL AND MAY  
LIMIT LENGTH OF PERSONAL STATEMENTS IN VIEW NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS  
IN INTEREST OF SPEEING UP TIRAL.

5. WIVES OF DEFENDANTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN MISSIONARY AND  
LOCAL CHURCH CIRCLES HOPE TO MOUNT SOME EFFECTIVE APPEAL TO  
PUBLIC OPINION BEFORE SENTENCING. PLANS FOR SUCH AN APPEAL ARE  
TO BE FORMULATED AFTER AUGUST 3 SESSION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT  
TONE OF PROSECUTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS OF PENALTIES FOR  
DEFENDANTS.  
STERN

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## Message Attributes

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